



2LT Harry Hamilton Gaver Jr.

Birth 26 Oct 1917

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, USA

Death 7 Dec 1941 (aged 24)

Pearl Harbor, Honolulu County, Hawaii, USA

Burial [Arlington National Cemetery](#)

Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia, USA

Plot Section 55 | Site 1729



Special Thanks to Diane Inman, Jack Jouett Chapter of DAR

Harry Gaver, '39, Is First Alumnus Killed in Action Since U. S. Entered the War

FIRST son of the University of Virginia to meet death with the armed forces of the United States in World War II was Harry W. Gaver, Jr., '39, who was killed at Pearl Harbor on that tragic morning of December 7.

The son of Major Harry H. Gaver, '17, headmaster of the Black-Foxe Military Institute in Los Angeles, Calif., young Mr. Gaver came to the University of Virginia in the fall of 1935 and received his degree in June 1939. He was a member of Kappa Sigma, Skull and Keys, Eli Banana, and the German Club, was head cheer leader, was captain of the lacrosse team, and was active in many undergraduate affairs.

He had attended the summer candidates class of the Marine Corps at Quantico and upon his graduation he obtained his reserve commission as second lieutenant in the Marines and reported for active duty at Quantico in September 1939 just as the war broke out in Europe.

Lieutenant Gaver subsequently passed the examinations for a regular commission and was sent to the Marine Basic School in Philadelphia for further training. He served tours of duty in San Diego and in Portsmouth, Va., before he was sent to the U. S. S. Oklahoma with the Pacific Fleet. He

last visited the University in the spring of 1941 while he was on special recruiting duty for the Marine Corps.

He was on duty at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese invasion struck on the morning of December 7. In the attack the twenty-five-year-old dreadnought Oklahoma was capsized and Lieutenant Gaver was reported to be among the missing. Later the news came from Marine Headquarters in Washington to his father that the young lieutenant had been killed in action.

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George Handy, '41

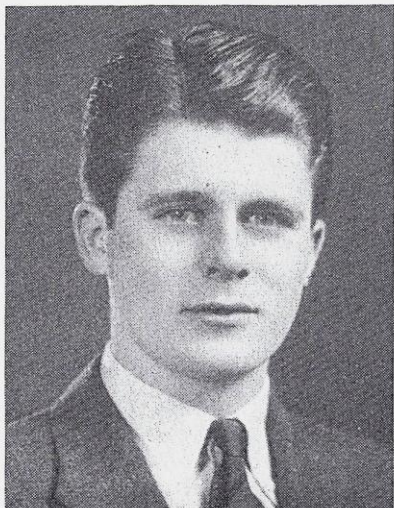
GEORGE Ben Johnson Handy, '41, of Richmond, son of Bolling H. Handy, '14, was killed January 23, in action in the Philippines where he was serving as first lieutenant in the Field Artillery. He is the first graduate of the Virginia Military Institute to be killed since war came to the United States.

Lieutenant Handy was born in Richmond twenty-two years ago. He was graduated from V. M. I. in June, 1940, with a second lieutenant's commission in the Army reserve corps, and he entered the University's Medical School. Last summer he applied for active service.

He was ordered to Langley Field last October and from there went to the Philippines where he was serving with General Douglas MacArthur's Philippine Scouts. He had celebrated his twenty-second birthday in December.

He is survived by his father, a veteran of World War I who is practicing law in Richmond, by his mother, his grandmother, four sisters and three brothers.

President John Lloyd Newcomb has been appointed by the President of the United States to serve on the Board of Visitors governing the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.



Harry Gaver, '39



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